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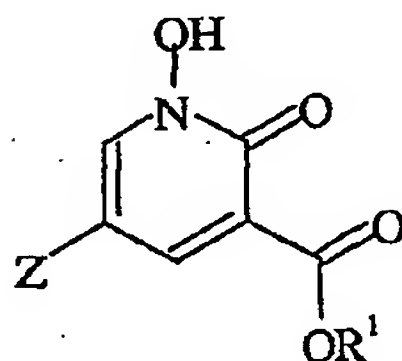
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(54) Title: PYRIDINE N-OXIDES AS ANTIVIRAL AGENTS



(I)

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to pyridinone derivatives of formula (I) wherein Z represents C<sub>2-6</sub> alkynyl, aryl or het-  
eroaryl, any of which groups may be optionally substituted, and R<sup>1</sup> represents hydrogen, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3-7</sub> heterocycloalkyl(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl,  
di(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkylamino(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, C<sub>2-6</sub> alkylcarbonyloxy(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl or C<sub>3-7</sub> cycloalkoxycarbonyloxy(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, and pharmaceutically ac-  
ceptable salts thereof, useful in the prevention and treatment of hepatitis C virus infections.

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